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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/673,614	10/19/2000	Jean-Francois Grimaldi	Q61365	2115

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHUONGCHI T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/673,614

Applicant(s)

GRIMALDI ET AL.

Examiner

Phuongchi T Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE (dated 02/22/02).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☒ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 14) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 15) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 16) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 17) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 18) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 19) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The request filed on February 22, 2002 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/673, 614 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Acknowledgement of Applicant 's Preliminary amendment filled on February 22, 2002.

It is noted that Claims 1-5, 8-9 are amended.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 6, line 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: where is "a guide" is disclosed in the specification. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) The invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1, 3-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fujizaki et al (US4954088).

In regards to claim 1, Fujizaki discloses a connector comprising a spring contact (70) where the spring contact (70) is substantially U-shaped and has first and second branches (74, 73) and a base (72) joining the first and second branches (74, 73) at ^{one end} ~~end~~ for forming the U shape, and wherein each of the first and second branches (74, 73) make electrical contact with a device (see Abstract, line 1), characterized in that the first and second branches (74, 73) lie in

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two diverging planes (adjacent 74, 73) and the intersection of the two planes (adjacent 74, 73) is within the base (72) of the U-shape (see figure 9).

In regards to claim 3, Fujizaki discloses the connector characterized in that the electrical contact (70) of at least one of the first and second branches (74, 73) is at the free end of the branch (74, 73) (see figure 9).

In regards to claim 4, Fujizaki discloses the connector characterized in that one of the first and second branches (74, 73) is adapted to come into contact with a printed circuit and the other of the first and second branches is adapted to come into contact with a battery (since IC chip lead carries the source of current that contacts electrically to spring leg; therefore, the IC chip lead is equivalent to the source of power or battery) (see Column 2, lines 5-8).

In regards to claim 5, in addition to claim 1, Fujizaki discloses an electrical connector comprising is a first face and a second face opposite the first face, at least one housing (50) for receiving a spring contact (70) and opening (see figure 5) onto both of the first and second faces, wherein the spring contact (70) is positioned in the housing (50) so that a plane (adjacent 50) containing a base (72) of the U-shape is substantially parallel to the respective planes of the faces of the connector (see figures 5, 8, 9).

In regards to claim 6, Fujizaki discloses the connector further comprising a guide (55) to guide the spring contact (70) into position in the housing (50) (see figure 8).

In regards to claim 7, Fujizaki discloses the connector further comprising a retainer (60 by the hook 64) for retaining the spring contact (70) in the housing (50) (see figure 8).

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In regards to claim 8, Fujizaki discloses the connector characterized in that one of the first and second branches (74, 73) of the spring contact (70) projects from the housing (50) (see figure 8).

In regards to claim 9, Fujizaki discloses the connector characterized in that the spring contacts (70) in two adjacent housings (50) being positioned so that they are substantially parallel but the opposite way round to each other (see figure 5), one of the first and second branches (74, 73) of one contact (70) being adjacent the other of the first and second branches (74, 73) of the adjacent contact (70) (see figure 5).

In regards to claim 10, Fujizaki the connector has a pick-up area (at the center of the bottom surface of 50) substantially at the center of the face (see figure 5).

In regards to claim 11, Fujizaki discloses the connector having lateral faces (adjacent 25) joining the first and second faces, characterized in that the lateral faces (adjacent 25) include at least one recess (25) and a free end of one branch (74, 73) of the spring contact (70) projects into the recess (25) (see figure 5).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

None of prior art teaches or suggests the connector characterized in that one of the first and second branches and the base are coplanar.

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Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PhuongChi Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0729. The examiner can normally be reach on Monday through Thursday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Austin Bradley, can be reached on (703)308-2319. Thax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722.

PCN

March 4, 2001.

